

CLAIMS

The invention claimed is:

1. An elevator delivery system for use in a truck body, comprising:
a retractable platform; and
at least one drive mechanism for moving said retractable platform at least upward with respect to said truck body, wherein said platform is coupled to said drive mechanism such that said platform retracts into an upright position between walls of said truck body when said platform is in a raised position.
2. The elevator delivery system of claim 1 further comprising a control system, operably coupled to said drive mechanism, for controlling upward and downward movement of said platform, wherein said control system is actuatable by an operator while said operator is standing on said platform, and wherein said control system is actuatable from a location at which said platform is out of reach of said operator.
3. The elevator delivery system of claim 2 wherein said at least one drive mechanism includes:
at least two hydraulic cylinders mounted to said truck body; and
at least two pistons mounted respectively on opposite sides of said platform, wherein said pistons move within said cylinders to move said platform relative to said truck body, and wherein said control system supplies hydraulic fluid to said hydraulic cylinders.
4. The elevator delivery system of claim 3 wherein said platform is pivotably mounted between said pistons.
5. The elevator delivery system of claim 1 further comprising a foldable side rail coupled between each side of said platform and said walls of said truck body.
6. The elevator delivery system of claim 2 further comprising an inside switch for actuating said control system inside of said truck body, wherein said inside switch is located such

that an operator of said inside switch is able to stand on said platform while said platform moves upward and downward.

7. The elevator delivery system of claim 6 further comprising an outside switch for actuating said control system outside of said truck body, wherein said outside switch is located such that said platform is away from an operator of said outside switch.

8. The elevator delivery system of claim 1 wherein said drive mechanism moves said platform upward and downward.

9. A combination truck body and elevator delivery system comprising:
an enclosed truck body having a bed, walls around said bed, and a door coupled to at least one of said walls for covering a doorway;
a platform mounted within said doorway such that said platform moves between an upright position between said walls of said truck body and an extended position extending outward from said doorway;
at least one drive mechanism mounted to said truck body on each side of said doorway and coupled to said platform for moving said platform at least upward; and
a control system coupled to said drive mechanism for controlling said drive mechanism.

10. The system of claim 9 wherein said doorway is in a side wall of said enclosed truck body.

11. The system of claim 9 wherein said doorway is in a rear wall of said enclosed truck body.

12. The system of claim 9 wherein said at least one drive mechanism includes:
at least two hydraulic cylinders mounted to said truck body; and
at least two pistons mounted respectively on opposite sides of said platform, wherein said pistons move within said cylinders to move said platform relative to said truck body, and wherein said control system supplies hydraulic fluid to said hydraulic cylinders.

13. The system of claim 9 further comprising an inside switch located inside of said truck body for actuating said control system from a location inside of said truck body, wherein said inside switch is located such that an operator of said inside switch is able to stand on said platform while said platform moves upward and downward.

14. The system of claim 13 further comprising an outside switch located outside of said truck body for actuating said control system from a location outside of said truck body, wherein said outside switch is located such that said platform is away from an operator of said outside switch.

15. The system of claim 9 further comprising an outside switch located outside of said truck body for actuating said control system from a location outside of said truck body, wherein said outside switch is located such that said platform is away from an operator of said outside switch.

16. The system of claim 9 further comprising a folding rail coupled between each side of said platform and said walls of said truck body.

17. The system of claim 9 wherein said drive mechanism moves said platform upward and downward.

18. The system of claim 12 wherein said hydraulic cylinders are hidden inside of said walls of said truck body.

19. The system of claim 9 wherein said control system is located outside of said truck body.

20. An elevator delivery system for use in a truck body, comprising:
a retractable platform;

at least two hydraulic cylinder/piston mechanisms for moving said platform upward and downward with respect to said truck body, said hydraulic cylinder/piston mechanisms including at least two pistons mounted respectively on opposite sides of said platform and at least two hydraulic cylinders mounted to said truck body, wherein said pistons move within said cylinders to move said platform relative to said truck body, and wherein said platform is mounted to said pistons such that said platform is movable between an upright position and an extended position;

a hydraulic control system for supplying hydraulic fluid to said hydraulic cylinders to control the upward and downward movement of said platform;

an inside switch for actuating said hydraulic control system from a location inside of said truck body, wherein said inside switch is located such that an operator of said inside switch is able to stand on said platform while said platform moves upward and downward; and

an outside switch for actuating said hydraulic control system from a location outside of said truck body, wherein said outside switch is located such that said platform is away from an operator of said outside switch.